SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS VANDA SYLVESTER				DEFENDANTS NOO FINANCIAL CYCTEMS INC					
VANDA STLVESTER				NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant					
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Craig Thor Kimmel, E	•								
Kimmel & Silverman, 30 E. Butler Pike	P.O.			Attorneys (If Known)					
Ambler, PA 19002									
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Case 2:10-cv-01669-JCJ Document 1 Filed 04/15/10 Page 2 of 12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) $_{\mathrm{Yes}}\square$ Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? Yes RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Judge Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes□ No 🎑 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? CIVIL: (Place / in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases; 1.

Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1.

Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. \square FELA 2.

Airplane Personal Injury 3.

Jones Act-Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. □ Antitrust 4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury 5. Patent 5.

Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. □ Labor-Management Relations 6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify) 7.

Civil Rights 7. Products Liability 8. □ Habeas Corpus 8. Products Liability - Asbestos 9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases 9. □ All other Diversity Cases 10. □ Social Security Review Cases (Please specify) 11. All other Federal Question Cases 15 U.S.C & 1692 ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check Appropriate Category) counsel of record do hereby certify: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is stught. Attorney-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

CIV. 609 (6/08)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Vanda Sylves	The state of the s		CIVIL ACTION					
NCO Financial	Systems, Inc.		NO.					
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(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.								
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.								
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.								
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.								
(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)								
(f) Standard Management - Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.								
4/14/2010 Date/ (215) 540-8888	Craig Thur f Attorney-at-law (215) 540 -88	,	anda Sylvester Attorney for Kimmelocreditlaw	<u></u>				
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

VANDA SYLVESTER,

Plaintiff

V.

NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.,

Defendant

Civil Action No.:

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

(Unlawful Debt Collection Practices)

COMPLAINT

VANDA SYLVESTER ("Plaintiff"), by her attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C., alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC. ("Defendant"):

INTRODUCTION

1. Count I of Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States.

3. Defendant conducts business in the state of Pennsylvania and as such, personal jurisdiction is established.

- 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).
- 5. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Fayetteville, Georgia.
- 7. Plaintiff is a person granted a cause of action under the FDCPA. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a) and Wenrich v. Cole, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18687 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 22, 2000).
- 8. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its principal place of business located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania, 19044.
- 9. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff when seeking to collect a consumer debt of another person.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

11. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties. See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific

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consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.

- In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices 12. considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. § The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous 1692f. collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 13. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing

laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.

14. Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt collectors. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. Defendant and others it retained began in January 2010 constantly and continuously placing harassing and abusive collection calls to Plaintiff seeking and demanding payment for an alleged consumer debt of another person, specifically a George Goodridge [sic].
- 16. Upon information and belief, the alleged debt Defendant was seeking to collect arose out of transactions which were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 17. Defendant and others it retained placed calls to Plaintiff's home and cellular telephones.
- 18. Defendant identified the debtor as George Goodridge [sic] ("Mr. Goodridge").
- 19. Defendant and others it retained left messages on Plaintiff's answering machine informing Plaintiff that Defendant needed to speak with Mr. Goodridge about a debt.
 - 20. Plaintiff spoke with Defendant and others it retained on numerous

occasions to advise that she did not know Mr. Goodridge, Mr. Goodridge did not live with her, and not to call her anymore.

- 21. Defendant and others it retained argued with Plaintiff, telling her to put Mr. Goodridge on the "damn phone."
- 22. Despite Plaintiff's requests and instructions not to contact her about Mr. Goodridge, Defendant and others it retained still continued to contact Plaintiff.
- 23. Defendant and others it retained contacted Plaintiff on average two times a day, at least five days a week in the months of January and February 2010 in its attempts to collect an alleged debt from Mr. Goodridge.
- 24. Oftentimes, Defendant would contact Plaintiff at inconvenient times for her, such as before 8:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m. on weekdays as well as on Sunday mornings.
- 25. Also, Defendant contacted Plaintiff on holidays, most recently Defendant contacted Plaintiff on President's Day, a federal holiday, looking for Mr. Goodridge.
- 26. Defendant's repetitive calls to Plaintiff after 7:00 p.m. interrupted her grandson's sleep and caused him to have problems at school.
- 27. Further, Defendant's repetitive phone calls to Plaintiff caused her stress and elevated her blood pressure, necessitating that she delay surgery.
- 28. The repetitive calls to Plaintiff were disturbing, harassing, an invasion of privacy and caused Plaintiff not to answer her phone.

CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

29. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. <u>Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay & Durand</u>, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes

strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." Russell v. Equifax A.R.S., 74 F. 3d 30 (2nd Cir. 1996); see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2nd Cir. 1993).

- 30. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C § 1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).
- 31. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3rd Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 32. Defendant violated the FDCPA based on the following:
 - a. Defendant violated of the FDCPA generally.
 - b. Defendant violated § 1692b(2) of the FDCPA by informing Plaintiff that Mr. Goodridge owed a debt.
 - c. Defendant violated § 1692(b)(3) of the FDCPA by calling Plaintiff more than once in connection for the collection of a debt for another individual.
 - d. Defendant violated § 1692c(b) of the FDCPA by communicating with Plaintiff about a debt allegedly owed by Mr. Goodridge.
 - e. Defendant violated § 1692d of the FDCPA by harassing Plaintiff in connection with the collection of an alleged debt.
 - f. Defendant violated § 1692d(2) of the FDCPA by using obscene or profane language or language the natural consequence of which is to abuse the hearer.
 - g. Defendant violated §1692d(5) of the FDCPA by causing a telephone to ring and engaging Plaintiff in telephone conversations repeatedly and continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse, and harass Plaintiff.
 - h. Defendant violated § 1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair and unconscionable means with Plaintiff to collect or attempt to collect a debt.
- 33. As a result of the above violations of the FDCPA, Defendant is liable to

Plaintiff in the sum of Plaintiff's actual damages, statutory damages, and attorney's fees and costs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, VANDA SYLVESTER, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- a. Declaratory judgment that Defendant's conduct violated the FDCPA;
- b. All actual compensatory damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- c. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for each violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- d. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3); and
- e. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Civil Rule 38, Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues in this action, and any issues relating to the amount of attorneys' fees and litigation costs to be awarded should Plaintiff prevail on any of her claims in this action.

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DATED: April 14, 2010

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CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO L. CIV. R. 11.2

I hereby certify pursuant to Local Civil Rule 11.2 that this matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any court, arbitration or administrative proceeding.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C..

By: /s/ Craig Thor Kimmel

Craig Thor Kimmel

Attorney ID # 57100 Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.

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